

An overview of the Participatory Value Evaluation (PVE) method

Participatory Value Evaluation (PVE) is a novel survey method aimed at measuring the preferences for government policies of a group of citizens (Mouter et al., 2019). In an online environment, participants analyze policy options that the government considers, accompanied by qualitative and quantitative consequences that each one entails. Upon choosing the preferred option(s), participants are invited to motivate each of their choices with a bulk of text which we here refer to as *motivation*.

Motivations are typically value-laden sentences written to justify choices. Their analysis offers valuable insight into the values held by survey participants in a specific context. We invite you to read such motivations and create a list of context-related values, guided by an NLP-supported method.

PVE on Lifting corona measures in the Netherlands

A PVE for understanding participants' preferences on lifting COVID-19-related measures was conducted in the Netherlands between 29/04/2020 and 06/05/2020, when partial lockdown measures were in place in the Netherlands to limit the spread of COVID-19. The government had multiple plans for lifting such measures in the following weeks and months, and wanted to gauge the opinion of the citizens on the subject. Each proposed option came with an additional pressure on the healthcare system as a consequence. The eight proposed relaxation measures are listed below. The numbers in the parenthesis indicate the additional pressure on the healthcare system from a choice.

- Nursing and care homes allow visitors. (10-25%)
- Businesses open again, except for hotels, restaurants, cafes and contact professions (barbers, beauticians, etc.). (6-15%)
- Employees in contact professions (barbers, beauticians, etc.) go back to work. (8-15%)
- Young people may come together in groups. (4-8%)
- All restrictions are lifted for people who are immune. (10-20%)
- Restrictions are lifted in Friesland, Groningen and Drenthe (Northern regions less affected by the virus). (15-30%)
- Social contact within families is allowed again. (6-15%)
- Hotels, restaurants, cafes and entertainment industry re-open. (15-25%)

The participants could choose multiple options, with a limit of maximum 50% additional pressure on the healthcare system. Subsequently, they were asked to motivate each of the chosen options.

The question for you is:

What personal values are relevant in the context of relaxing COVID-19 measures?

PVE on South-West Friesland energy transition

The South-West Friesland (the Netherlands) energy transition PVE was organized by the municipality of South-West Friesland in the scope of transition to renewable energy, with the goal of reaching 50% of renewable energy generation by 2030. The municipality did not have a concrete plan yet, but proposed the following six options to its citizens:

- The municipality takes the lead and unburdens you.
- Inhabitants do it themselves.
- The market determines what is coming.
- Large-scale energy generation will occur in a small number of places (as opposed to being distributed).
- Betting on storage (South-West Friesland becomes the battery of the Netherlands).
- Become an energy supplier in the Netherlands (South-West Friesland helps the rest of the country in generating more sustainable energy).

Citizens were invited to distribute 100 points among the mentioned options, assigning proportionally more points to the preferred options. Subsequently, they were asked to motivate each of the chosen options.

The question for you is:

What personal values are relevant in the context of a municipality's attempts to transition to renewable energy?

References:

Mouter, Niek and Koster, Paul and Dekker, Thijs, An Introduction to Participatory Value Evaluation (December 15, 2019). Tinbergen Institute Discussion Paper 2019-024/V, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3358814> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3358814>